

Newmarket Rural District

IN THE

Administrative County of Cambridge.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR

1937.

Newmarket Rural District

IN THE

Administrative County of Cambridge.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR

1937.

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Newmarket Rural District Council.


LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1937 on the Health, Sanitary Conditions, and Vital Statistics of the Newmarket Rural District. The Report is an Ordinary one, and is drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health as specified in Circular 1650 dated October 4th, 1937.

ARTHUR MORGAN,

May, 1938.

Medical Officer of Health.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29906453>

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area: Land 80,856 acres.
Water 245 „

Number of parishes: 22.

Estimated resident population: 18,880.

Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books: 5952.

Rateable Value: £55,408.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £217 16s. 7d.

The district is mainly agricultural in character and there are no particular trades or industries other than those associated with agricultural occupations. In ten parishes, however, there are stud farms for the breeding of racehorses.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS:

		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	290	157	133
Illegitimate	...	7	3	4
	Totals	297	160	137

			1937	1936	1935
Birth Rate per thousand of the estimated resident population	...	...	15'2	14'5	14'7
Birth Rate per thousand resident population (England and Wales)	...	...	14'9	14'8	14'7

STILL BIRTHS:

		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	10	6	4
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
	Total	10	6	4

	1937	1936	1935
Rates per thousand total (live and still births)	32'5	28'1	31'2

DEATHS :	Total 226	Male 108	Female 118			
				1937	1936	1935
Death Rate per thousand of the estimated resident population (uncorrected for age and sex distribution)	...	...	11'9	13'4	11'8	
Corrected Death Rate	...	...	9'6	10'8	9'5	
Death Rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	...	...	12'4	12'1	11'7	
Deaths from Puerperal causes :	Nil.					

Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age :

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	15	10	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—
Totals	15	10	5
	—	—	—

Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age :

	1937	1936	1935
(a) All infants per thousand live births	50.5	43.4	46'6
(b) Legitimate infants per thousand legitimate live births	51'7	41'9	48'1
(c) Illegitimate infants per thousand illegitimate live births	Nil	71'4	Nil

	1937	1936	1935
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	36	46	41
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years of age)	Nil	2	Nil

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS.

	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	10	5	15
1 year and under 2	—	—	—
2 years „ „ 5	—	2	2
5 „ „ „ 15	2	3	5
15 „ „ „ 25	—	1	1
25 „ „ „ 35	2	3	5
35 „ „ „ 45	1	3	4
45 „ „ „ 55	9	7	16
55 „ „ „ 65	17	14	31
65 „ „ „ 75	32	28	60
75 „ and over	45	42	87
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	118	108	226
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO CAUSE AND SEX.

Causes of Death				Males	Fe- males	Totals
Typhoid Fever, etc,	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...
Influenza	...	...	...	2	5	7
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	8	2	10
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...		1	1
Syphilis	...	...	...
General Paralysis of the Insane, etc.	...	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	18	18	36
Diabetes	...	...	...	3		3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	4	12	16
Heart Disease	...	...	...	26	25	51
Aneurysm	...	...	...	1		1
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	8	5	13
Bronchitis	...	...	...	1	3	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	3	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	1	1	2
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	2	1	3
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...
Appendicitis	...	...	...	3	1	4
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	1		1
Other Liver Diseases	...	...	...		2	2
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	1	3	4
Nephritis	...	...	...	5	4	9
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...
Congenital Causes, etc.	...	...	...	8	3	11
Senility	...	...	...	6	9	15
Suicide	...	...	...	1		1
Other Violence	...	...	...	4	2	6
Other Defined Causes	...	...	...	13	8	21
Ill-defined Causes	...	...	...
Totals				118	108	226

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE IN THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY :

- (a) A whole time Medical Officer of Health who also acts for other Rural Districts in the County of Cambridge.
- (b) Two whole time Sanitary Inspectors, Mr. A. E. Austin, Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, is the Senior Inspector and Housing Officer. Mr. T. W. Tindall, who was appointed additional Sanitary Inspector, 9th March, 1936, resigned on 5th July, 1937, and was succeeded by Mr. W. H. Couperthwaite, on 1st September, 1937. Mr. Couperthwaite holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and the special certificate in meat and other foods.

LABORATORY FACILITIES :

Chemical analyses of water, etc., are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. Specimens for bacteriological examinations are sent to Dr. W. H. Harvey, Green Street, Cambridge. Samples of Milk for the bacterial count are dealt with at the Agricultural Department of the University of Cambridge.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES :

A motor ambulance is provided by the District Council in connection with the Isolation Hospital at Exning and is available for the transport of infectious disease. The service of the Red Cross or Police Ambulances can be obtained for cases of accident or ordinary illness. The facilities provided are adequate.

NURSING IN THE HOME	}	No alteration in the existing
CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES	}	arrangements.

HOSPITALS :

There are no hospitals situated in the district. So far as general hospitals are concerned Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, receives most of the cases from the area. A small proportion of patients, however, are treated at the Rous Memorial Hospital, Newmarket.

Cases of infectious disease are dealt with at the Newmarket Rural District Council's Isolation Hospital. The Hospital is situated at Fordham Road, Exning, and provides 24 beds allowing 12 feet of wall space, 144 feet of floor space, and 2000 cubic feet of air space for each one. The Staff consists of the Matron, three Nurses, a Wardmaid, a Cook, a Housemaid, a Laundress, and the Porter who drives the ambulance and acts in a general capacity. Dr. Norman Gray, of Newmarket, is the Medical Superintendent. The hospital is well equipped and well administered, and the eight bed cellular block has proved particularly useful. By arrangement cases are accepted from the Urban District of Newmarket. A new agreement, which continues for 30 years, was entered into with the Urban District Council in 1928. Amongst other conditions the agreement provides that no more than ten beds shall be occupied at any one time by patients from the Urban area without the consent of the Medical Officer of Health of the Rural District. When accommodation is available cases are admitted from outside districts and charged for at the rate of £2 12s. 6d. weekly plus a small sum for the use of the ambulance, if this is required. The total number of admissions during the year was as follows :

Newmarket Rural District	...	28
Newmarket Urban District	...	11
Mildenhall Rural District	...	10
Clare Rural District	...	4
South Cambs Rural District	...	2
Borough of Bury St. Edmunds	...	2
Thedwastre Rural District	...	1
Chesterton Rural District	...	1
Haverhill Urban District	...	1
		—
		60
		—

The 60 admissions were :

Scarlet Fever	...	42 cases
Diphtheria	...	4 „
Measles	...	8 „
Whooping Cough	...	2 „
Tonsillitis	...	1 „
Poliomyelitis	...	2 „
Mumps	...	1 ..

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY :

A Public Inquiry was held at Burwell by one of the Ministry of Health's Inspectors on May 20th and 21st. The subject of the Inquiry was the Council's proposals relating to the provision of a piped water supply for Burwell, and improvements to the existing supplies in the parishes of Bottisham, Lode, Swaffham Prior, and Swaffham Bulbeck, by means of additional public wells. It will doubtless be remembered that the original proposals envisaged a piped supply for all these parishes but were modified, partly on account of the amount of local opposition to the scheme in general, and partly at the suggestion of the County Council.

The result of the Inquiry was that further discussions took place at the Ministry of Health between officers of the Ministry, representatives of the County Council, and of the Newmarket Rural District Council. Finally the proposals put forward at the Inquiry were altered, and the original scheme of a piped supply for all the parishes concerned is being proceeded with.

In December a tender was accepted for the sinking of a 6" trial borehole at Swaffham Prior.

ISLEHAM :

During the year communications have been received from the Ministry of Health concerning the water supply in this village and in May I prepared a special report on the subject, the following being a copy thereof :

Population, Census 1921 : 1,490.

Population, Census 1931 : 1,487.

The Parish is an isolated one situated on the chalk at the edge of the Fenland in the North Eastern part of the Newmarket Rural District and about $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles from the village of Fordham. It is the third largest parish in the district.

The borehole and pumping station of the Ely Waterworks is situated in the parish near the railway bridge (this borehole is stated to be $77\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep and to pass through 1 foot of soil, $52\frac{1}{2}$ feet of chalk, 18 feet of chalk marl and 6 feet of clay). The water main supplying the Ely Rural District also passes through the village.

There is no public water supply and the inhabitants are dependent upon private sources. These consist of shallow wells in the chalk varying in depth from 10 to 45 feet. There are about 160 of these wells and they are situated in close proximity to houses and cultivated ground. The sanitary arrangements are on the conservancy system, the refuse from pail closets, etc. being disposed of upon garden ground or allotments. There is no shortage of water nor do the distances it has to be fetched and carried appear excessive.

In 1933 twenty-three samples of water were taken for analysis from wells in the Pit (this is an old chalk pit containing a group of 40 houses); only two were reported to be fit or safe for drinking purposes.

In 1935 the supply to the six Council houses at East End was reported to be unsafe, and that for the Council houses in Station Road to be safe but of second quality.

During the present year 23 samples have been taken from wells in different parts of the village with the following results :

East Fen Drove	...	Safe ; to be kept under observation
East End	...	Safe ; to be kept under observation
East End	...	Poor quality, safe ; to be kept under observation
Beck Row	...	Safe
Bowers Lane	...	Poor quality ; to be kept under observation
Coates Drove	...	Poor quality ; to be kept under observation
Waterside	...	Second quality ; safe
Waterside	...	Unfit
Sun Street	...	Safe ; to be kept under observation
Sun Street	...	Safe
Sun Street	...	Unsafe
Sun Street	...	Safe ; to be kept under observation
Church Street	...	Unfit
Pound Lane	...	Safe ; to be kept under observation
Pound Lane	...	Safe ; to be kept under observation
High Street	...	Safe
High Street	...	Unsafe
High Street	...	Safe ; to be kept under observation
West Street	...	Safe ; to be kept under observation
West Street	...	Safe ; to be kept under observation
West Street	...	Unsafe
Little London	...	Safe ; to be kept under observation
Near the School	...	Safe : second quality : to be kept under observation

Total number of samples—23. Twenty-two were taken during May 1937 and one (from Sun Street) in November 1936.

It will be noted that three samples are reported to be safe and five unfit or unsafe. The remaining fifteen are also reported to be safe but with a qualification such as "second quality," "to be kept under observation," in each instance. In other words the analytical results appear to indicate that all these wells are liable to pollution and that water obtained from similar sources must be regarded with suspicion.

Conclusion : Having regard to the circumstances outlined above I have formed the opinion that if the health of the inhabitants of this parish is to be adequately safeguarded a pure and adequate supply of water is required throughout the parish and particularly in the Pit.

May, 1937.

The Council have now decided that the best way of dealing with the matter will be for Isleham to have a piped supply taken from the Burwell and district scheme.

FORDHAM :

The question of the water supply in this village has been the subject of discussion during the year and the Council's Consulting Engineer was asked to report on the possibility of taking a supply from the Soham waterworks. After consideration of the report, from which it appeared that extensive alterations would be necessary to this waterworks in order to obtain an adequate yield of water, the Council instructed the Engineer to proceed with the preparation of plans and estimates for the supply to Fordham from the proposed pumping station at Swaffham Prior.

When these schemes are completed the only parishes in the district without a piped supply of water will be : Wicken (pop. 713), Chippenham (pop. 394), Kennett (pop. 195), Snailwell (pop. 197), and Landwade (pop. 38). No doubt in the near future attention will be given to the needs of Wicken and Chippenham, which are the most important of the five. Wicken might be supplied from Soham, and Chippenham could be provided for by an extension of the main by which it is proposed to supply Fordham.

DULLINGHAM WATERWORKS :

There are no new matters to report so far as this waterworks is concerned. The lime-softening plant has continued to function satisfactorily. A sample of the water sent for examination in December is reported by the Public Analyst to be free from deposit, practically free from organic matter, and to contain comparatively few micro-organisms : the total hardness is reduced to 11.0 degrees (English).

SAXON STREET WATERWORKS :

Following a report by the Council's Engineer the pumping plant, formerly worked by oil engines, has been electrified. One oil engine, however, has been retained to act as a reserve in case of emergency. Chemical and bacteriological examinations of the water have been made with satisfactory results. The hardness is 17'8 degrees (English).

STETCHWORTH WATERWORKS :

SOHAM WATERWORKS :

No alterations or improvements have been effected at either of these waterworks during 1937. The usual chemical and bacteriological examinations have been made and, in each case, the water is reported to attain the standard necessary for a public supply. The hardness of the water at Stetchworth is 22'9 degrees and at Soham 18'10 degrees.

There have been no fresh extensions of mains in connection with any of the waterworks but the following connections have been made to the mains :

Soham, 21 houses and 2 shops; Kirtling, 1 house; Woodditton, 1 stud farm and 1 house; Cheveley, 3 houses; Brinkley, 1 house; Ashley, 1 house.

Twenty-four standpipes have been repaired, viz. Ashley 2, Brinkley 3, Dullingham 9, Kirtling 1, Westley 2, Woodditton 3, Soham 4.

Quantity of water pumped from each waterworks :

	Dullingham & District	Ashley, Cheveley, Kirtling, etc.	Stetchworth	Soham
1932	2,076,000	5,195,000	1,097,000	11,008,000
1933	2,344,000	6,163,000	1,217,000	11,132,000
1934	2,441,000	7,154,000	1,294,000	10,200,000
1935	2,630,000	7,546,000	1,362,000	11,496,000
1936	2,544,000	7,160,000	1,297,000	11,264,000
1937	2,514,000	8,029,000	1,252,000	11,593,000

WATER SAMPLES.

Samples of water taken for analysis :

	SITUATION	PARISH	RESULT
1.	Collins Hill, Public Pump ...	Fordham	Safe, to be kept under observation
2.	Ironbridge Path, Public pump ...	Fordham	Safe
3.	Church Street, Public pump ...	Fordham	Safe
4.	Near Fire Station, Public pump ...	Fordham	Safe
5.	Mill Lane ...	Fordham	Safe
6.	Pump next highway, J. Lofts' Estate, Freckenham Road	Fordham	Safe
7.	Pump in playground, The School	Fordham	Safe, 2nd quality
8.	Cottages, Moor Farm, occupied by G. W. Long and C. Pollard	Fordham	Safe, poor
9.	New Path ...	Fordham	Unfit
10.	Church Street, Public pump ...	Fordham	Safe
11.	Walter Beckett, East Fen Drove ...	Isleham	Safe, to be kept under observation
12.	Four cottages owned by Miss C. M. Martin, East End	Isleham	Safe, to be kept under observation
13.	Seven Houses, Bowers Lane ...	Isleham	Safe, poor quality, to be kept under observation
14.	Four cottages, Waterside Road ...	Isleham	Safe, second quality
15.	Draper, Coates Drove ...	Isleham	Safe, poor quality, to be kept under observation
16.	Fuller, Sun Street ...	Isleham	Safe, to be kept under observation
17.	Beckett, Church Lane ...	Isleham	Safe
18.	Griffin Hotel ...	Isleham	Unfit
19.	Collen, Pound Lane ...	Isleham	Safe, to be kept under observation
20.	Four cottages, High Street ...	Isleham	Safe
21.	R. E. Audus, High Street ...	Isleham	Unsafe
22.	Walter Fleet, West Street ...	Isleham	Unsafe
23.	Three houses, Little London ...	Isleham	Safe, to be kept under observation
24.	Three houses, West Street ...	Isleham	Safe, to be kept under observation
25.	The School ...	Isleham	Safe, 2nd quality
26.	Pleasant Terrace, Beck Row ...	Isleham	Safe
27.	Clark and Brown, Pound Lane ...	Isleham	Safe, to be kept under observation
28.	Beckett, Harvey and Peachey, East End	Isleham	Safe, poor quality to be kept under observation
29.	Corner of Waterside Road ...	Isleham	Unfit
30.	Post Office ...	Isleham	Safe, to be kept under observation
31.	Sun Street ...	Isleham	Safe, to be kept under observation
32.	Reed and Harvey, The Pit ...	Isleham	Safe, poor quality
33.	Talbot, West Street ...	Isleham	Safe, to be kept under observation

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The most urgent problem in the district is the state of affairs existing at Soham. This matter has been referred to in most Annual Reports of the District Medical Officer of Health since the year 1874 and has been the subject of two special reports made by myself. In my report for 1936 I also stated that the matter had become one of urgency. I hold the view that the present conditions are grossly insanitary and a danger to the health of the community and can only be remedied by the provision of an adequate scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal. During the year further serious complaints have been received relating to offensive smells caused by the foul state of the Docking, a watercourse near the railway Station which receives a considerable amount of sewage. This watercourse discharges into the Soham Lode, but, when the water in the latter is at a high level, the flow from the Docking is interfered with. Seventeen blockages and defects in the sewers have been remedied and an improvement effected to a ditch in Brook Street by extending the 9" pipe drain a distance of 44 yards and filling in the ditch.

STETCHWORTH: In last year's report reference was made to the unsatisfactory state of the effluent from the settling beds dealing with the sewerage discharged from the sewer in the village street. A report has been made by Messrs. Sands & Walker, Consulting Engineers, and it is proposed to construct new works on an adjoining site where sufficient fall for gravitational treatment is available, abandoning the old works altogether. The estimated cost is in the neighbourhood of £1,980.

CHEVELEY PARK ESTATE: This estate contains 176 houses and adjoins the Newmarket Urban District. The method of drainage is by means of cesspools which are emptied by the occupiers of the houses. From time to time complaints have been made regarding the lack of adequate sewerage facilities. The Newmarket Urban District Council has been approached and a complete plan of the area submitted in order to ascertain whether an agreement could be arrived at and the sewage discharged into the sewers of the Urban District.

In November a reply was received from the Urban District Council stating that they were unable, at the present moment, to consider favourably the Newmarket Rural District Council's proposal.

No question of pollution to water supplies is involved, the whole area having a piped supply from the Newmarket Water Company's mains.

CHEVELEY VILLAGE: No complaints have been received regarding any nuisance caused by the settling and filtration tanks at Broomstick Corner that deal with the sewage from this village.

So far as other villages are concerned no special problem has arisen. In any event a piped water supply is necessary before any schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal can be contemplated. Considering the extent of the present proposals regarding water supply it appears that in the future attention may need to be directed towards the possible requirements of villages such as Burwell, Isleham and Fordham.

RIVERS AND STREAMS: There is no gross pollution of rivers and streams except in the parish of Soham.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION :

Privies converted into pails	...	24
Privies abolished	...	19
Pails abolished	...	7

Additional new closets provided during the year :

Water closets	...	31
Pail closets	...	76

Approximate number of each type in the district :

Water closets	...	791
Pail closets	...	1940
Privies	...	2059

PUBLIC CLEANSING :

As stated in my report for 1936 a scheme has been formulated for the collection of all house refuse throughout the district, and for the disposal of such refuse by controlled tipping in approved pits. Tenders for carrying out the work for the year were advertised for and one was accepted, the amount being £410. The Contractor commenced work on the 1st June. Collections are made fortnightly in the parishes of Burwell, Cheveley, Fordham, Isleham, Soham, Stetchworth, and in the built-up portion of Woodditton adjoining Newmarket, and monthly in the remainder of the parishes.

A time table for the whole district was prepared, and posters were exhibited in the villages stating the days and times of collections. From 1st April to 30th September the collection starts at 7.30 a.m., and from the 1st October to the 31st March at 8 a.m. The refuse is disposed of in approved pits by "controlled tipping" in accordance with the Ministry of Health's recommendations. The Contractor provides a motor lorry, and all necessary labour, tools, etc. for the collection and disposal of the refuse. Prior to the inauguration of this scheme collections were

undertaken in some of the parishes by the Parish Councils, powers having been delegated to them for that purpose. At Soham house refuse was collected fortnightly. In the parishes of Ashley, Bottisham, Burwell, Fordham, Isleham, Swaffham Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior and Woodditton only unburnable rubbish was dealt with, and the collections were either monthly or once in two months. Moreover, except at Soham, the rubbish was tipped indiscriminately in various disused pits without any attempt at covering. The cost of the collections for the above-mentioned nine parishes during the year ended 31st March, 1937, was £160, whereas the cost of the new scheme (£410) embraces the whole district, and provides, not only for the collection of all kinds of house refuse, but for a much more frequent collection, and care in the ultimate disposal of the refuse.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Factories	...	...	25
Workshops and workplaces			42
Foods : Bakehouses		...	34
Slaughterhouses and			
Butchers' shops			559
Fried Fish Shops			12
Shops	...	...	18
Knackers Yard		...	1
Cowsheds	...	...	147
Dairies	...	...	82
Water supply :			
Pumping stations	...		48
Wells and Pumps	...		547
General (including			
water meters)			318
Watercourses and ditches :			
Public Drains	...		16
Other Ditches	...		54
Ponds	...		4
Sewerage and Drainage :			
Sewage Beds	...		24
Sewers	...		15
Drains tested	...		38
Cesspools	...		30
Public Conveniences			10
Visits under Building Bye-laws			247

Refuse Dumps	...	27
Schools	...	3
Infectious Disease	...	19
Rooms disinfected	...	28
Miscellaneous	...	60
Dwellinghouses	...	2150
Samples taken :		
Water	...	33
Milk	...	15
Nuisances or defects found	...	490
" " " remedied	...	442
Informal written notices	...	250
" " " complied with	...	215
Statutory notices	...	1
" " complied with	...	1

SHOPS ACT, 1934 :

This Act came into operation on December 30th, 1934. The parts administered by the District Council are certain subsections of Section 10 dealing with the provision of sanitary conveniences, ventilation, lighting and warming. A number of inspections have been made but, so far, it has not been found necessary to take any action.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS :

Disinfestation was carried out in one case, and no further complaint has been received.

HOUSING.

In 1936 eleven Clearance Orders were confirmed dealing with 43 unfit houses, and representations were made in respect of 24 individual unfit houses. During 1937 the following 40 houses and bungalows have been erected by the District Council to rehouse the persons displaced in consequence of this action :

Burwell.	2 pairs of 1-bedroom bungalows	...	4
	3 blocks of four 3-bedroom non-parlour houses	...	12
	1 block of four non-parlour houses, two with three bedrooms and two with four bedrooms	...	4
Lode.	1 pair of non-parlour 3-bedroom houses	...	2
Swaffham Prior.	5 pairs of non-parlour 3-bedroom houses	...	10
Swaffham Bulbeck.	2 pairs of 1-bedroom bungalows	...	4
	2 pairs of non-parlour 4-bedroom houses	...	4

During 1937 the following houses have been represented as being unfit :

In Clearance Areas :

Representation Made	Area	Number of houses	Number of persons	Order Confirmed
12 January, 1937	No. 26 (Ashley)	3	7	20 November, 1937
do.	No. 27 (Ashley)	3	7	do.
do.	No. 28 (Ashley)	4	4	do.
do.	No. 29 (Cheveley)	2	10	do.
do.	No. 30 (Cheveley)	4	8	do.
do.	No. 31 (Stetchworth)	3	7	do.
do.	No. 32 (Stetchworth)	5	9	do.
do.	No. 33 (Fordham)	2	—	do.
do.	No. 34 (Fordham)	2	1	do.
do.	No. 35 (Fordham)	2	2	do.
do.	No. 36 (Fordham)	2	8	do.
do.	No. 37 (Fordham)	2	—	do.
do.	No. 38 (Fordham)	2	10	do.
do.	No. 39 (Fordham)	4	12	do.
do.	No. 40 (Fordham)	3	7	do.
do.	No. 41 (Kirtling)	3	8	do.
do.	No. 42 (Kirtling)	2	6	do.
do.	No. 43 (Kirtling)	2	2	do.
do.	No. 44 (Isleham)	2	6	do.
do.	No. 45 (Isleham)	2	12	do.
do.	No. 46 (Isleham)	2	3	do.
do.	No. 47 (Isleham)	2	7	do.
do.	No. 48 (Woodditton)	3	9	do.
do.	No. 49 (Woodditton)	4	9	do.
do.	No. 50 (Woodditton)	2	5	do.
do.	No. 51 (Woodditton)	3	7	do.
do.	No. 52 (Woodditton)	2	8	do.
do.	No. 53 (Soham)	6	9	do.
do.	No. 54 (Soham)	2	5	do.
do.	No. 55 (Soham)	6	14	do.
do.	No. 56 (Soham)	4	7	do.
do.	No. 57 (Burrough Green)	5	18	do.
do.	No. 58 (Burwell)	2	2	do.
		<hr/> 97	<hr/> 229	

Individual Unfit Houses :

Parish.	Number of houses	Number of persons
Ashley ...	2	2
Burrough Green	1	4
Fordham ...	3	4
Soham ...	4	9
Swaffham Prior ...	4	10
Woodditton ...	1	1
	<hr/> 15	<hr/> 30

For the purpose of rehousing persons to be displaced from these unfit houses, and also for the purpose of abating cases of overcrowding, tenders were accepted in January 1938 for the erection of the following

Parish	To rehouse persons from	
	Unfit houses	Overcrowded houses
Ashley ...	6	1
Bottisham ...	—	3
Burrough Green and Westley ...	6	4
Burwell ...	2	7
Cheveley ...	6	3
Dullingham ...	—	2
Fordham ...	14	7
Isleham ...	6	8
Kennett ...	—	2
Kirtling ...	5	1
Lode ...	—	2
Soham ...	25	15
Stetchworth ...	7	2
Swaffham Bulbeck	—	4
Swaffham Prior	4	2
Wicken ...	—	3
Woodditton ...	15	1
	<hr/> 96	<hr/> 67
		Total 163

The work of building these houses is now in progress.

The number of houses built, or in course of erection, by private enterprise during 1937 is as follows :

Bottisham	...	4
Burwell	...	4
Cheveley	...	2
Cheveley (Park Estate)		12
Chippenham	...	3
Fordham	...	13
Kirtling	...	2
Isleham	...	1
Snailwell	...	1
Soham	...	21
Swaffham Bulbeck	...	2
		<hr/>
		65
		<hr/>

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACT.

Grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, have been made, or promised, during the year in respect of the following houses :

Cheveley	1
Dullingham	4
Isleham	2
Wicken	2

Publicity has been given to the provisions of this Act by means of advertisement, exhibition of placards, and by the distribution of the leaflets issued by the Ministry of Health.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1446
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	... 2150
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	646
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	... 850
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ... 112

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	130
2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS during the year without service of FORMAL NOTICES :—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	121
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS during the year :—	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2) Number of dwelling-house which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owner	—
(b) By Local Authorities in default of owners	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
(2) Number of dwelling-house in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
(Note: three houses were demolished by owners in anticipation of the making of demolition orders)	
(d) Proceedings under Sections 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—

- (2) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit —

HOUSING ACT, 1936.—Part IV.—OVERCROWDING :—

- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 120
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein 120
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein 789
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 3
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 7
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 50
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding None
- (e) As mentioned elsewhere in this report tenders were accepted in January 1938 for the erection of 67 houses for the abatement of overcrowding, and the work is now in progress. As the houses are intended for the worst cases of overcrowding it is hoped that the houses vacated will be available for other families overcrowded to a lesser degree.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY :

Number of Cowkeepers or Purveyors of Milk on the Register :

Wholesale Purveyors	...	...	83
Retail "	...	...	75
Wholesale and Retail Purveyors	...	...	14
Butter only	...	...	12
Retailers who are not cowkeepers	...	...	5
			<hr/> 189 <hr/>

INSPECTION.

The number of inspections of cowsheds was 147 and dairies 82.

A number of the cowsheds were found not to be constructed in accordance with the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order. In such cases notices have been served, copies of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Bulletin No. 40, on "The construction of cowhouses" supplied, and advice given.

Written notices were served and verbal notices given in connection with the following defects which were subsequently remedied :

Unsatisfactory floor	...	...	2
Limewashing	...	...	22
Unsatisfactory Dairy	...	...	1
Accumulation of manure		...	1
Lack of cleanliness	...	...	17
Insufficient lighting to cowshed		...	2
Unsatisfactory cooling place		...	1

LICENCES.

One supplementary licence has been granted for the sale of pasteurised milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936.

MILK SAMPLING.

Fifteen samples have been sent to the School of Agriculture, University of Cambridge, for examination by the Methylene Blue and Coliform tests.

The standard aimed at is that of Accredited Milk, as specified in the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936. When the results obtained fall below this standard an investigation is made to ascertain the possible cause thereof and to help the producer to effect an improvement. In every case copies of the results of the examination are sent to the persons concerned, and there is no doubt but that this method of procedure does act as a definite incentive towards the production of cleaner milk.

Ten of the samples proved to be unsatisfactory, and eight did not comply with the coliform test, so it is evident that there is still room for improvement. There is now a growing consensus of opinion that in order to produce milk comparatively free from pathogenic organisms efficient pasteurisation combined with meticulous care during every stage of production is required.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS :

Number of Slaughterhouses on Register at end of 1937 :

Licensed	...	10
Registered	...	19
		—
		29

Regular inspection is made of all slaughterhouses and Butchers' shops; the number of inspections was 559. The premises were found, in most cases, to be kept in a satisfactory condition. In certain instances, however, a number of defects were found, which were remedied after service of informal notices.

Where possible, animals were inspected before slaughter, and the majority were inspected soon after slaughter. With such an extensive area and so many scattered private slaughterhouses it is quite impossible to inspect all animals and carcasses.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned :

	Bovines	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—
Number inspected	216	458	808
All diseases except Tuberculosis			
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...			·74%
Tuberculosis only			
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	16	—	35
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	7.87%	—	4·58%

Meat, fish, tinned, and other foods, sold from motor vans was inspected on several occasions, but no unsound foods were discovered.

Visits have also been made to shops where foodstuffs were exposed for sale but no unfit food was found.

All unsound meat has been destroyed in the Newmarket Urban District Council's destructor.

PREMISES ON WHICH FOOD IS PREPARED:

The fried fish premises have been inspected and found to be kept in a reasonably satisfactory state. No unsound fish or other food was discovered.

Regular inspection is made of rooms in which sausages and other made-up foods are prepared. The premises, generally, were found in a satisfactory condition, but in several instances there was need for greater cleanliness. The ingredients, as a rule, were found to be in sound condition.

BAKEHOUSES.

There is no alteration in the number of these premises, viz. 24. The requirements of the Factories and Workshops Act relating to limewashing have been carried out.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades in the district except for a knackers yard situated on the Ely Road, in the parish of Soham. The licence was renewed during the year.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

The Council have granted 61 licences to Slaughtermen under the provisions of this Act.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The incidence of the notifiable diseases has continued to be low. The number of cases of scarlet fever, however, shows an increase of nine on the previous year, but is below the average for the last ten years. During the ten years 1927—1936 there were 302 cases of this disease, giving a yearly average of 30·2. It will be noted that there have been no cases of diphtheria. In the period 1934—1937 only two persons have been notified as suffering from this disease.

The following tabular statements shew the distribution and incidence of the different infectious diseases notified.

Table 1. Distribution in Parishes.

	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Puerperal Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Totals
Ashley		1				1
Bottisham	6	1	1			8
Brinkley	1					1
Boro' Green	3					3
Burwell			1			1
Cheveley	2			1		3
Chippenham						
Dullingham	1					1
Fordham						
Isleham		2				2
Kennett						
Kirtling						
Landwade						
Lode		2				2
Snailwell	1					1
Soham	2					2
Stetchworth	3	1			1	5
Swaffham Prior			2			2
Swaffham Bulbeck	1	1				2
Westley						
Wicken						
Wooditton	2					2
<i>Totals</i>	22	8	4	1	1	36

Table II. Monthly Incidence.

		Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Puerperal Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Totals
January	...		3	2			5
February	...		1				1
March	... ..		3				3
April	... ..		1	1			2
May	... ..	5					5
June	... ..					
July	... ..	5			1		6
August	... ..	1		1			2
September	...	5					5
October	...	4				1	5
November	...	2					2
December	...						
Totals		22	8	4	1	1	36

Table III. Analysis under age groups.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	AT AGES—YEARS.											Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
		—1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—	
Scarlet Fever	22			2			9	3	4	4			21	
Pneumonia	8	1						1		1	2	2		5
Erysipelas	4								1			1		
Puerperal Pyrexia	1									1				
Puerperal Fever	1									1				
Totals	36	1		2			9	4	5	7	2	3	21	5

All cases requiring hospital treatment were admitted to the Council's Isolation Hospital at Exning.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

It does not appear from the information available that there has been any undue incidence of these diseases. There has been the usual prevalence of influenza, and seven deaths were attributed to this cause. The last year in which there were any considerable number of deaths was 1933, when there were 24. The average yearly number for the last ten years is 10·7.

Returns have been received from the Head Teachers of schools relating to 551 children excluded from school either on account of illness or infection in the home. Measles, mumps, and whooping cough accounted for 535 of these. The information thus obtained from the schools is found to be of utility, particularly as by this means one obtains information relating to cases of infectious disease which otherwise might not be heard of.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...								
1 ...			1					1
5 ...	1	1	1	3				
15 ...	3		1					
25 ...	4	2				2		
35 ...				1	1			
45 ...	2	1			2			
55 ...	2	1	1		1			
65 & upwards	1				4			
Totals ...	13	5	4	4	8	2		1

No action has been called for either under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or under Section 61 of the Public Health Act, 1925 (relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number of Factories	...	...	...	...	36
„ „ Workshops and Workplaces			...	...	74
„ „ Inspections of Factories	...	...	...	...	25
„ „ „ „ Workshops and Workplaces				...	42
Written Notices	...	...	...	...	48
Defects found	...	...	...	...	None

ARTHUR MORGAN, M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

